OV 1 4 2003 IN THE UNITED

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroki HOMMA

Docket No: Q66038

RECEIVED

NOV 1 7 2003

Group Art Unit: 2152

Technology Center 2100

Confirmation No.: 6250

Appln. No.: 09/941,709

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: August 30, 2001

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ABSENCE OF THE USER

UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 4.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

For:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

- Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-138757, published on May 16, 2000.
- Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 7-177237, published on July 14, 1995.

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Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-284654, published on 3. October 15, 1999.

- Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-36833, published 4. on February 2, 2000.
- 5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-164041, published on June 18, 1999.
- Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-196179, published on 6. July 21, 1999.

Applicant submits that Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-125004, published on April 28, 2000, was filed in an Information Disclosure Statement in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 18, 2001, in the present application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated September 10, 2003, and an English translation of the pertinent portion thereof, which cites and indicates the degree of relevance found by the Foreign Patent Office.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/941,709

Attorney Docket No. Q66038

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any

listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

& Imbe aplear

J. Frank Osha

Registration No. 24,625

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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Date: November 14, 2003

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO				Complete if Known		
				Application Number	09/941,709	
IPE INFOR	RMATION DISC	LOS	SURE	Confirmation Number	6250	
STATI	EMENT BY API	LIC	ANT	Filing Date	August 30, 2001	
y 1 4 2003 (use as many sheets as necessary)				First Named Inventor	Hiroki HOMMA	
				Art Unit	2152	
				Examiner Name	Unknown	
S 6	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q66038	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document	Number	Publication Date			
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		
		US					
		US			DECEIVED		
		US			TILOLIVED		
		US			NOV 1 7 2003		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS /							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		JР	2000-138757	Α	05-16-2000		No
		JР	7-177237	Α	07-14-1995		No
		JP	11-284654	Α	10-15-1999		No
		JР	2000-36833	Α	02-02-2000		No
		JР	11-164041	Α	06-18-1999		No
		JР	11-196179	A	07-21-1999		No
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation	
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.